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PROSPECTS OF CONTINUED PEACE.

There has long been a kind of traditional expectation, that there will soon be a general and terrible "war of opinion," a fierce, internecine conflict between democracy and despotism, between legitimists clinging to their prerogatives, and the people claiming their rights. We have shared not a little in these forebodings; nor should we, since the revolutionary outbursts all over Europe in 1848, have been disappointed to see the flames of a general European war kindled almost any moment. Indeed, it seems to be taken for granted, that there must be ere long a general war in the Old World, with no small chance of our being drawn into the quarrel; and this assumption has often exposed our cause to the taunt of having accomplished little or nothing, because, forsooth, it has not yet arrested *all* danger of war from a continent that keeps itself continually armed to the teeth!

We are glad to find a contradiction of these fears from so high a source as a British Premier. We know that statemen are not prophets; but we may well gather strength to our hopes of continued peace, when we hear such a man as Lord Derby say, as he did at the last annual dinner given by the Mayor of London to her Majesty's Ministers,—

"Among the many gratifying circumstances connected with this assembly, not the least is to see so large, and I may add so fair, a representation of those foreign States which are now happily in amity with this country, and to maintain the most cordial relations of amity and friendship with whom is the declared and avowed policy of the present government, as it ought to be the policy of every government, of this country. We accept the presence of these representatives on this occasion, not as a compliment, however gratifying that might be, to me or to any of my colleagues in our personal and individual character. We accept it as a mark of adhesion to that policy which professes an absolute and entire non-intervention with the internal affairs of all other countries, and the determination also to leave unexhausted no effort—if the case should arise—by friendly exertion and by friendly interposition, to prevent the possibility of the disturbance, in any quarter of the world, of the general peace which now exists.

My Lord, it may be that in various portions of the world there are elements of internal discord, and elements which may threaten the spreading of that discord beyond their own boundaries, which may defeat the best intentions of the most peaceful States. I do not believe,—I do not venture to hope,—that we have arrived at that Utopian period when any nation can safely or justifiably deprive itself of the means of internal organization for its national defence; but this I do believe, and of this I am confident, that throughout Europe, and throughout the world, there is a general desire on the part of all nations to extinguish at once the slightest spark which may appear to threaten external convulsion, or to endanger the general peace. Of this I am sure, that if there be an appearance of hostility or of any angry feeling arising in any quarter, the exertions of all countries will be used, not, as in less enlightened times, to fan the flame in the hope of obtaining some remote and individual advantage, but to put a friendly extinguisher upon the first elements of strife, and to interpose for the prevention of misunderstandings which may at any time arise; and I am quite confident that if, without

provocation, any one power, either through the misconduct of its own government, or through the pressure of its own people, should be so unwise as to make a hostile or unprovoked aggression, that power would be met by the unanimous reprobation and remonstrance of the civilized world. I am confident also, that there is an enlightened feeling arising now among all governments and among all nations, a growing conviction, that their interests, their honor, their welfare, and their real glory, are better promoted by developing their internal resources, by fostering the domestic industry of their people, by promoting the enjoyment, the wealth and the prosperity of their subjects, than by any dreams of military glory, however brilliant, or by any prospect of aggressive conquests, however dazzling,

At this moment, I may mention as an illustration, that we are engaged with a great and powerful neighbor, whose military prowess all the world acknowledges, and of whose prowess we have ourselves had great experience, not in those hostile armaments which have formerly deluged the world in blood, but in a united effort, by united counsels, in endeavoring by peaceful negotiations to extend, not for our own individual benefit, but for the benefit of the world at large, the sphere of peaceful commerce through the interior of the vast continent of America; and in this peaceful labor our councils are undivided. Our plenipotentiaries are, indeed, different in person; but the instructions upon which they proceed, and the spirit by which they are animated, are essentially and unequivocally the same.

I feel my lord, that for all the world—for the promotion of peace, and for the general good of the world—the cordial union of all nations in the advancement of commercial intercourse is a matter of primary importance; but, if it be so to other nations, most of all must it be so to this, with whom the great manufacturing and commercial power is so large an element of that greatness which a long series of years has enabled us to attain.”

Nor does the establishment of the empire in France under Louis Napoleon, seem to threaten the peace of Europe. Such is certainly the view taken of it not only by the new-made Emperor, but by the mass of the French people, and by the shrewdest and most careful observers of passing events.

“What the results will be for France,” says one, “it is difficult to foresee. The name of *French Empire* awakens many reminiscences of an alarming character; but it is certain that the circumstances of Napoleon III. will be very different from those in which his uncle was placed when elevated to the supreme power in France. It seemed difficult for the latter to preserve his position by other means than those by which he had been elevated. He was a successful soldier, and of necessity relied for support on his companions in arms. It would be destructive to the influence of Napoleon III. to engage in war, the glory of which, if it were successful, would be reaped by generals who might become his rivals. War was for France, under the first Napoleon, a source of profit as well as of honor, or at least appeared to be so, the plunder of Europe coming into France. But at present, and for some years past, commerce has done more to enrich France than war ever did or could do; and thus everything indicates that the interest of the new emperor and empire will be peace. That the president has sense enough to discover this, no man can doubt who has considered well his conduct; and besides, he has declared it positively in the very discourse in which he first intimated that he should yield to the wishes of the French people, if they should call him to the empire. ‘There is one fear,’ said he, ‘to which I am bound to reply. From a feeling of distrust certain persons say, ‘The empire is war.’ I say, the empire is peace. It is peace, for France desires it;

and, when France is satisfied, Europe is tranquil.' 'Woe to him who would be the first to give the signal for a collision, of which the consequences are incalculable! I feel this, and yet like the emperor, I have many conquests to make. I wish to conquer to conciliation, opposed parties. . . . to conquer to religion, morality and the public welfare, that portion of the population which hardly knows the precepts of Christ. We have immense uncultivated lands to break up, roads to open, ports to make, rivers, to render navigable, canals to finish, and our railways to complete.'

'We have to bring all our great western ports nearer to America by the rapidity of communication which is still wanting. We have, in short, everywhere ruins to repair, idols to overthrow, and truths to give victory to. Such are the conquests which I meditate, and you all who surround me, and who desire with me the good of the country, are my soldiers.' Who can deny the wisdom of these views? Why should they not be sincere?"

STATE LEGISLATURES ON PEACE.

ACTION OF THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE ON STIPULATED ARBITRATION.

We reported, in the *October Advocate*, a resolution of our Committee, "inviting the friends of Peace in different States of our Union to petition their respective Legislatures, at their next session, in behalf of peaceful substitutes for War, and endeavor to procure from them some action in favor of this important object." The Legislature of Vermont was the first that met; and this subject was brought before them by the following petition on behalf of our Society, and by others of like import from citizens of that State:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of Vermont, now in session:—

The undersigned, in behalf of the American Peace Society as the common organ and representative of the friends of Peace throughout the United States, and having a portion of its members and officers in Vermont, asks leave to invite the favorable attention of your Honorable Bodies to the feasibility and importance of gradually superseding the custom of war, as the arbiter of disputes between nations, by the adoption of peaceful substitutes that shall accomplish the great ends of international justice and security more effectually than they can be by the sword.

For a fuller expression of our views and wishes on this subject, we would refer to a document on **STIPULATED ARBITRATION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR WAR**, already presented for this purpose to members of both branches of the Legislature.

The Society, believing that a correct public opinion on this subject, duly expressed, must in time prompt nations, like individuals, to adopt measures for an amicable adjustment of their difficulties without a resort to the sword, and wishing, as we think it possible, to hasten so desirable a result by the influence of our State Legislatures, very respectfully solicits from your Honorable Bodies such action as you may deem best in favor of having our National Government, "wherever practicable, secure in its treaties with other nations, a provision for referring to the decision of umpires all misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by amicable negotiation."

In behalf of the American Peace Society,

Geo. C. Beckwith, Secretary.

MONTPELIER, October, 19, 1852.